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National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Red Hill

and or common

2. Location

street & number S side SR 1501, .8 miles east of jct. with US 15 not for publication

city, town X vicinity of Bullock

state North Carolina code 037 county Granville code 077

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | N/A | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

Robert A. Cerwin, M.D.
name Red Hill Associates

street & number 2501 Lewis Farm Road

city, town Raleigh vicinity of state North Carolina 27608

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds
Granville County Courthouse
street & number Main Street at Court Street

city, town Oxford state North Carolina 27565

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

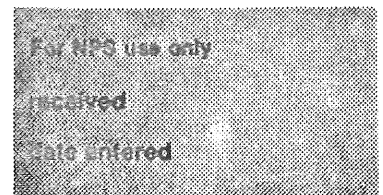
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Red Hill is an imposing, little-altered, late-eighteenth and early nineteenth century three-part frame plantation manor house set at the crest of a grassy knoll at the end of a long dirt driveway. Red Hill appears to be three stylish, architecturally distinct, connected houses arranged side-by-side to present an impressive and arresting sight from the roadway. The center block is a substantial, one-and-one-half story, two-bay gambrel-roofed Georgian style house constructed c. 1776. The east wing is a shorter, one-and-one-half story, two-bay one-room, gable-roofed Georgian style block with transitional Federal features, constructed c. 1807. The west wing is a very tall two-story, three-bay, transitional Federal/Greek Revival style addition, constructed c. 1820. Red Hill stands in the northeast corner of a 263-acre farm and commands a view of gently sloping, extensive cleared fields surrounding it. Red Hill Plantation encompassed approximately 1,100 acres from its establishment in 1776 until 1884 when about half the acreage was sold; the farm has comprised 263 acres since a further land sale in 1956. The tract is located at the northern edge of rural Granville County, about three-quarters of a mile south of the Virginia border. It is bounded at the north by Island Creek Dam Road (SR 1501); at the east by recreational parkland bordering John H. Kerr Reservoir; at the south by private farmland; and the west by the Southern Railroad rail line, adjacent and parallel to U.S. Highway 15. In the yard on the south side of Red Hill there is a small modern frame tenant house, a frame livestock barn and a small pond. There are two other small barns and hog pens a short distance east of the house. These accessory buildings are all of recent vintage; no original outbuildings survive.

The center, gambrel-roofed block originally faced north, toward the road, but was reoriented to face south early in the nineteenth century when the west wing was built. The original main entrance was weatherboarded over then, but the door framing remains visible from the interior. There are currently no doors on the north or south elevations of the center block. The center section of the house has three tall, narrow wall dormers with flush sheathing and four-over-four sash windows with molded sills on the north, south and west elevations; a substantial brick interior end chimney; flush eaves with beaded rakeboards and decoratively sawn covering boards; beaded corner boards; and some original beaded siding.

The east wing has a center shed-roofed dormer with flush sheathing and a six-over-six sash window on the north side of the gable roof; two attic gable end windows; nine-over-nine sash windows on the first story; an offset single paved shoulder random course brick exterior end chimney with stone base; and an engaged porch on the west half of the south (main) elevation ornamented with flush beaded siding. The porch, carried by original slender tapering posts with molded capitols, shelters two doors: the main entrance of the east wing is composed of six flat panels set in a typical Federal style three-part surround (an identical door stands directly

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opposite on the north elevation); the other door, with six robust raised panels set in a wide molded surround opens into the east elevation of the gambrel-roof section and originally served as that block's side entrance. A remnant of the original round porch railing remains; the porch steps have been replaced. A small, shed-roofed wing, used as a pantry, extends from the southeast corner of the east wing. It appears to be contemporary with that wing since it is supported by the same exceptionally long main sill.

The gable roof of the two-story west wing has flush molded eaves and a fine, intact modillion cornice. Tall, narrow nine-over-nine sash windows light the first story, with six-over-six windows on the second; the windows have heavy ovolo molded surrounds and plain square sills. Wide paneled cornerboards accentuate the height of this wing which retains some of its original beaded siding; full-height paneled pilasters divide the two western bays from the off-center porch bay. The porch is a deep, one-story vernacular Greek Revival style temple-form pedimented portico carried by replacements posts. This porch is not as well executed as the rest of this handsome wing, and it was probably reworked at an undetermined point. The six flush panel main entrance door is topped by a four-light transom; an identical door, without the transom, is located directly opposite on the north elevation. The west wing's single shoulder brick exterior end chimney collapsed c. 1975 and is currently being reconstructed.

Both the center block and east wing stand on random-coursed stone foundations; the west wing rests on a high brick foundation of four-to-one bond. To help visually unify the three disparate sections, the south side of the stone foundations were brick veneered, probably when the west wing was built. A dirt-floor basement, approximately five-and-one-half feet high, extends under the west two-thirds of the house. A few wooden ventilators survive in the foundation of the gambrel-roof section and the west wing. Massive hewn and pit sawn beams, sills, and summer beams support the house. Their size and strength, coupled with a well-ventilated basement and a dry location at the crest of a knoll, have all contributed to the remarkably sound condition of the framing. The exterior of the house is currently being restored, with repair of the foundation and chimney reconstruction underway.

The interior of Red Hill retains a significant, and surprising, number of its original decorative features and finishes. Considering the house's long history and multiple owners and tenants, the interior is notably intact. The lath and plaster walls (plaster deteriorated) survive throughout, as do the doors, pine flooring, wainscot, all but one of the mantels (location is known, to be returned), and a remarkable wealth of decorative painting in the west wing.

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Notable features of the center, gambrel-roofed block include its unusual lateral front hall and rear parlor plan; raised panel doors; arched fireplace openings in the parlor and attic room (hall firebox plastered to accommodate a later heating stove); Georgian style mortise-and-pegged mantels with applied molded trim; wide, flush panel wainscot with relatively slender chair rails in both the first story and attic; and partially enclosed winder stairs (balusters missing) in the southeast corner of the sunny south room. Located under the stairs is a small closet where brick nogging is visible, as well as rose-head nails. In the attic, hand hewn, pit-sawn studs are visible in the east gambrel end. The roof's wind braces are lapped into pegged rafters. A small window in the east gambrel end lights the attic; the framing for a window in the west end, removed when the two-story west wing was appended, survives.

The east wing has a one-room plan, with a finished attic room above; wide, single board wainscot with a molded chair rail; and a robust, vernacular rendition of a tri-partite Federal style mantelpiece with fluted pilasters bracketing the plastered, square firebox. Raised panel doors give access to the enclosed stairs located in the northwest corner of the room, and to a small closet beneath. The risers of the steep stairs are painted black and the stairwell is sheathed with flush beaded boards. A narrow chair rail encircles the second story room; the room has wide board wainscot, plaster walls, a simple tri-partite mantel composed of two flat horizontal panels divided by a simply molded vertical panel and topped by a shallow shelf. Pit sawn rafters cut from hewn timbers are visible in the ceiling; it is difficult to determine whether the nails used are hand or machine made, but appear to be machine made, and hand-headed.

The substantial two-story west wing displays a side hall plan. The graceful stairs rise against the west wall to a large, well-lighted landing, turning 180 degrees to ascend to a large second story hallway. (An entrance to the attic of the center block is also located in the east wall of the hallway). The staircase features curved applied brackets, slender turned newel posts, a round hand rail, and tobacco stick balusters. The wide wall stringer and the very tall Greek Revival style baseboards in the hall are marbelized with a vernacular interpretation of black and gray marble; the same marbelizing is seen on the baseboards in the second story hallway and bedroom. Most of the handsome doors in the west wing have raised panels outlined by a thin piece of applied trim, and they are exuberantly woodgrained to resemble mahogany. Heavy ovolo molded trim enframes the doors and windows and is also used for the chair rails. The wide single board wainscot is found on both the first and second stories. The wainscot appears to retain its original coat of glazed, blue/gray paint. The tall first floor windows are accented by paneled aprons and vernacular Chippendale style valances. The surviving mantelpiece in the west wing is a fairly restrained Federal style example with pilasters formed from the same ovolo

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trim seen throughout this wing, here set on plinth bases; the pilasters frame a wide flat frieze, and the molded capitals support a molded shelf. Access to the well-finished attic room is via enclosed stairs located in the southwest corner of the second story hall. The attic has plaster walls and wide flush board wainscot.

The nominated area includes only the house and approximately five acres immediately surrounding it. (see Item 10, verbal boundary description and justification.)

Archaeological testing at Red Hill (Clauser, John, report in preparation) has indicated the presence of intact archaeological resources directly related to the main structure. As the testing program was directed to the recovery of architectural details, the vast majority of the features recorded to date are in the vicinity of the house. Remains of the original front porch to the Federal portion of the structure have been uncovered, as have evidences of entrance treatments to two rear entrances. A previously unsuspected exterior cellar entrance was discovered on the north side of the structure. Surface investigations, backed with probing have located an area approximately 75 feet north of the main structure which probably contain outbuilding remains. Artifacts recovered from both surface collections and subsurface tests represent the full range of historic occupation of the house, and suggest the presence of more substantial deposits being present. The scientific recovery of these data would contribute significantly to the understanding of the changing economic and political environment of the residents of the house, and of the area in general.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates c. 1776 - c. 1820 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located on 263 acres in rural northern Granville County, Red Hill is an impressive, little-altered frame plantation manor house built in three stages during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The earliest center section, a one-and-one-half story gambrel-roofed Georgian house, was constructed c. 1776 by Jacob Mitchell as the seat of his 1,022 acre plantation; the one-and-one-half story east wing was constructed in a transitional Georgian/Federal style c. 1807 by either Mitchell, or Red Hill's second owner, Francis Jones; the tall two-story Federal style west wing, with transitional Greek Revival features, was constructed before 1820 by Dr. Thomas Hunt, under whose ownership the plantation reached its greatest extent of 1,165 acres. The three sections of Red Hill are arranged side-by-side, creating a very long, telescope-like main elevation. The house is notable for this linear arrangement which is unique in the region; more commonly, wings and additions are arranged as front or rear ells and occasionally an older section is engulfed by later extensions or enlargements. In addition to its unusual form, Red Hill is significant for the intactness, on both the exterior and interior, of each of the three parts and for the gambrel roof, a type very rarely found in piedmont North Carolina. Red Hill survives as an example of a high-style, well-finished house built by a succession of prosperous antebellum planters. The house has many stylish and well-executed details including beaded weatherboards and interior sheathing, paneled corner boards and a fine modillion cornice on the west wing, wainscot and molded chair rails, raised panel doors, Georgian and Federal style mantel pieces and a wealth of decorative painting in the west wing including marbelized baseboards and woodgrained doors.

Criteria Assessment:

- C. The three-part house embodies the distinctive characteristics of three periods of architectural development. It includes a c. 1776 one-and-one-half story gambrel-roofed Georgian style center block; a c. 1807 one-and-one-half-story transitional Georgian-Federal style east wing, and a c. 1820 two-story transitional Federal-Greek Revival style west wing. Red Hill displays an unusual linear arrangement and a notably intact exterior and interior with a variety of Georgian, Federal and Greek Revival style decorative elements.
- D. Archaeological testing has been done in the area immediately surrounding the dwelling and includes both surface and subsurface testing. This initial testing was conducted to uncover architectural detail and remains, and the location of the original porch of the federal section of the house, and a hitherto unknown exterior cellar entrance were discovered. The artifacts collected thus far represent the full range of historic occupation of the house, and suggest the presence of substantial deposits. Probing has located an area about 75 feet from the house which probably contains outbuilding remains. The potential for uncovering substantial remains, and adding to the understanding of the period from 1776 through the 19th-century exists.

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Red Hill Plantation in Granville County was established between 1776 and 1779 by Jacob Mitchell, a prosperous farmer originally from neighboring Mecklenburg County, Virginia. Mitchell's plantation tract consisted of 1,022 acres located on the banks of Beaver Dam Creek in Abram's Plains District.¹ He was succeeded by a series of wealthy planters who continued to shape Red Hill Plantation and its manor house during the first half of the nineteenth century. They included Francis Jones of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, who owned Red Hill from 1803 to 1807; Dr. Thomas Hunt of Warren County, North Carolina, under whose ownership, from 1807 to 1819, the plantation reached its greatest extent of 1,165 acres; Howell L. Read of Granville County from 1819 to 1841; and the John G. Daniels family of Powhatan County, Virginia, who owned the property from 1841 to 1884. Subsequent owners in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries include L. C. Edwards who owned Red Hill from 1884 to 1887; Augustus Wright, 1887 to 1899; the Gregory family from 1906 to 1956; R. A. Harris, 1956 to 1963; Charles Currin, 1964 to 1967; Nancy and Joseph Beam, 1967 to 1985; and the present owner, Dr. Robert A. Cerwin.

The three-part house survives as a significant, largely intact, example of a high-style, well-finished house built by well-to-do early nineteenth century Granville County farmers. It represents three distinct building periods and styles. These are: a one-and-one-half story gambrel-roofed Georgian center block, probably built by Jacob Mitchell sometime around 1776; a one-and-one-half story, one-room gable-roofed transitional Georgian/Federal style east wing, built by either Jacob Mitchell or Francis Jones before 1807; and a two-story gable-roofed transitional Federal/Greek Revival style wing on the west end, probably built by Thomas Hunt before 1820.² None of the outbuildings mentioned in early deeds survive. Howell L. Read, the Daniels family, and subsequent twentieth century (largely absentee) owners altered the house very little. Read and Daniels lived there only part of the year, and later owners often lived elsewhere, hiring tenant farmers to care for the plantation.

Red Hill's early owners, Mitchell, Jones, Hunt, Read and the Daniels, were prosperous farmers who could afford to purchase a large tract of land and own a sufficient number of slaves to farm it. Granville County tax records indicate that they owned more land and slaves than most of their neighboring Granville County farmers.³ In Red Hill's fertile land they grew large quantities of tobacco, corn, oats and wheat and raised a significant number of cows, sheep, and swine. Red Hill was strategically located near the Great Indian Trading Path, a major eighteenth century trade route, which ran from Petersburg, Virginia through piedmont North

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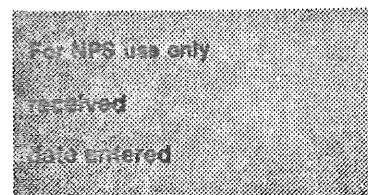
Carolina to Georgia. Tobacco, a major cash crop from Mitchell's time to the Daniels', was shipped to and sold in Petersburg, Virginia. By the time of the Civil War, Red Hill's owners enjoyed another especially convenient trade route: the Roanoke Valley Railroad line ran north-south, just one mile west of Red Hill, parallel to what is now US Highway 15.⁴

Red Hill Plantation consisted of approximately 1,100 contiguous acres from the late 1770s until 1884, when Isabella Daniels sold a 635-acre tract of land including the house. After a few years of prosperity at Red Hill, the early owners may have moved on because they were unable to buy more adjacent land. Francis Jones, Red Hill's second owner, eventually moved east to Warren County.⁵ Dr. Thomas Hunt, the third owner of Red Hill, bought "Burnside," located in neighboring Vance County in 1818 before he sold Red Hill in 1819. "Burnside," much larger than Red Hill, had 2,500 acres.⁶

Jacob Mitchell, Red Hill's first owner, from 1776 to 1803, was one of a number of wealthy Virginians who settled in Granville County during the 1770s.⁷ In A History of Granville County, historian James R. Caldwell describes settlers, like Mitchell, as "a well-to-do Virginia farmer who in the '70s left his home for the fertile lands along the waterways of Granville in search of a better life."⁸ These Virginians bought large tracts of the best available land in north central North Carolina for relatively low prices. By 1779 Mitchell owned 1,074 contiguous acres of land along Beaver Dam Creek purchased in several parcels: 202 acres from Rueben Searcy in 1776 for sixty pounds, 549 acres from John Mitchell in 1779 for 500 pounds; twenty-five acres from William Potter in 1779; and 300 acres from the State in 1779.⁹ The 1785 North Carolina tax schedule records that Mitchell owned 1,022 acres and five slaves.¹⁰ He maintained an average of fifteen slaves from 1782 until he sold Red Hill in 1803.¹¹ According to Caldwell, in 1782 the 819 landowners in Granville County owned an average of 596 acres; only fifty-nine of the county's 500 slaveholders owned more than ten slaves.¹² Based on his land and slave holdings, Mitchell was very well off by the standards of his times. This prosperity is reflected in the stylish one-and-one-half story Georgian style house he probably built c. 1776. Gambrel-roofed houses were rare in mid-eighteenth century piedmont North Carolina, and few survive. They were more commonly found in the Virginia Tidewater region and the Albemarle region of northeast North Carolina.¹³ Mitchell's choice of this form may have been influenced by its popularity in his native state, although there are no known extant examples of this house type in Mecklenburg, his home county. Mitchell's house was well constructed with brick nogging for insulation, and pegged rafters, and decoratively finished on both the first story and the full-height attic room with flat panel wainscot, plastered walls, beaded chair rails and paneled mantels with applied trim. In 1800 there were nine members in Mitchell's household.¹⁴ It is possible that, due to the

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size of his family, his increasing wealth, and his twenty-seven year long residency at Red Hill, Mitchell may have built the Georgian/Federal style east wing as well as the original Georgian center block. The east wing is little altered and retains flush beaded siding under the rear porch; handsome raised-panel doors; (deteriorated) plaster walls; wide flush wainscot with beaded chair rails; flush beaded boards in the enclosed stairwell; and a well-finished attic with plaster walls and wide wainscot.

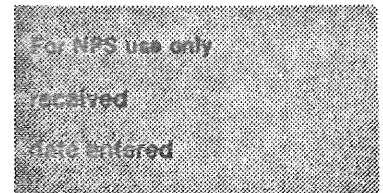
In late 1803, a Virginia lawyer and farmer, Francis Jones bought the 1,022 acre tract and "all its singular houses, barns, buildings and orchards" from Mitchell for \$3,000.¹⁵ Jones, also from Mecklenburg County, brought fifteen slaves with him to Red Hill.¹⁶ In 1807 Jones sold the same property to Thomas Hunt for \$4,000, or \$1,000 more than he paid for it three years earlier.¹⁷ This price may indicate that Jones expanded or improved the house, possibly building the one-story east wing or improving the plantation by constructing outbuildings. It cannot be definitely determined whether the east wing was built by Mitchell or Jones.

Thomas Hunt, a doctor and native of Warren Cauty, North Carolina settled on Red Hill Plantation shortly after 1807. Hunt, even more prosperous than his predecessors, increased the acreage of this estate. In 1813 he purchased an additional 131 acres adjacent to Red Hill, increasing the tract to 1,153 acres.¹⁸ By 1817 he had twenty-five slaves.¹⁹ In 1820 there were seven people living in Hunt's household.²⁰ Thomas Hunt owned the property for twelve years, selling it in January, 1819 to Howell L. Read of Granville County for \$12,850. The deed records the sale of 1,165 acres of land, house, barns, orchards, gardens, waters, and appurtenances.²¹ Considering the relatively high sales price, Hunt may have sold Read his entire estate including his household furnishings, farm equipment and/or an interest in his crops and livestock.²² However, Hunt purchased Burnside, in Vance County near Stoval, in November, 1818 and lived there until about 1824, and he probably would have needed his household furnishings. More likely, during Hunt's Red Hill tenancy, the well-to-do doctor improved the property by constructing the impressive two-story transitional Federal/Greek Revival style west wing. Hunt's addition, with its vertical emphasis, made the house even grander in appearance. The interior of this wing is also finely finished with decorative marbelized and wood grained trim, fine woodwork and a simple plaster ceiling medallion.

In 1820 Howell L. Read began farming the 1,165 acre plantation with twenty-five slaves.²³ For the next twenty years Read owned approximately twenty-two slaves.²⁴ During the two decades that he owned Red Hill, it appears that he did not reside there the entire time, and that he became an absentee owner. While the census for 1820 lists Read as the head of a household of three in the Abram's Plains area of Granville, he is not listed in either the 1830 or the 1840 Granville County population schedules.²⁵ He was living in Haywood County, Tennessee when he sold the property in 1841 to John G. Daniels of Powhatan County, Virginia for \$8,000.²⁶

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John Daniels died in 1847, just six years after he purchased Red Hill. An inventory of his estate indicates that Daniels was an educated and comfortably well-off farmer. In this inventory is the first mention of the name "Red Hill." He left thirty-three slaves, four work horses, three colts, seventy hogs, sixty-five sheep, two oxen, twenty-five head of cattle, two large plows, and other farm implements. His household goods included twelve mahogany chairs, a mahogany dining room table, a mahogany couch, twelve Windsor chairs, six bedsteads, silverware, and china. He had a sizeable library consisting of several volumes of history and poetry which included eight volumes of Smith's History of Virginia, five volumes of Rollin's Ancient History, two volumes of Robertson's History of America, Cook's Voyages, and Montgomery's Poems.²⁷

Richard V. Daniels inherited Red Hill from his father, John, in 1848, a year after he married Mary Venable of Granville County.²⁸ In 1850 Richard Daniels owned fourteen male and thirteen female slaves, according to the slave census for that year. He is not listed in the agricultural census or the Granville County population schedules for 1850. Richard last appears in the tax records in 1857. That same year he deeded nine slaves to his only child, Isabella, age seven years and he died in 1858.²⁹ Susan M. Daniels, Richard's mother, is listed as the tax payer for Red Hill until her granddaughter, Isabella, came of age, sometime around 1868.³⁰ Susan Daniels was living in Petersburg, Virginia at the time of her son's death and she apparently did not relocate to Red Hill since she is not listed in the 1860 population census for Granville County. Her granddaughter Isabella, age eleven, is listed in the 1860 census as a member of her maternal grandfather, Abraham Venable's, household, in Abram's Plains, perhaps at Red Hill.³¹ The agricultural schedule and the tax schedule for 1860 indicate that Red Hill Plantation was thriving. There were fourteen adult slaves there. The livestock, valued at \$1,100, included thirty-six sheep, fifty swine, ten cattle, two oxen, eight cows, six mules and four horses. In addition the crop yield was 600 bushels of wheat, 500 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of oats, 15,000 pounds of tobacco and seventy pounds of wool.³²

In the 1870 census Isabella, age twenty-one, is listed as the head of a household in Abram's Plains. She resided at Red Hill with her husband, Mr. Jones, until she sold a 656 acre portion of the farm, including the house, in 1884 to L. C. Edwards, trustee for James M. Crowder for \$2,500.³³ (The Daniels family had owned the plantation from 1841 to 1884, longer than any previous owners.)

L. C. Edwards sold the property just three years later, in 1887, to Augustus Wright who probably lived in the house until he in turn, sold it to R. A. Taylor and his wife Laura in 1899.³⁴ The Taylors sold the 656 acre property to Mary Davis Gregory in 1906.³⁵

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The property was in the Gregory family until 1956. Mary Gregory deeded the property to her son William Henry Gregory in 1925. William Gregory and his wife Harriet, resided in the nearby town of Stoval, or elsewhere in Granville County and hired black tenant farmers, the Tunstall brothers, to work the farm. Harriet Gregory sold the land, then reduced to 263 acres including the house, to R. A. Harris in 1956.³⁶

The most recent owners, including R. A. Harris, Charles Currin, and Joseph Beam, also hired black tenants to farm Red Hill.³⁷ The descendants of Willie Marable, caretaker for the Beams, still live on the farm in a modern house, just south of the plantation house.

The present owner, Dr. Robert A. Cerwin of Raleigh, purchased Red Hill in 1985 and plans to restore the dwelling and use it as his country house.

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FOOTNOTES

¹Granville County Deed Book R, p. 236; Deed Book I, p. 23; Deed Book M, pp. 145-146; Deed Book N, p. 105. Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, North Carolina. Jacob Mitchell is listed as a colonial settler, 1776, in Nannie Tilley's "Studies in the History of Colonial Granville County", Duke University: M.A. thesis, 1931. In the late eighteenth century the Spewmarrow District, where Colonel Samuel Smith resided and represented as a Justice of the Peace, was renamed "Abram's Plains District" in honor of his plantation, located a few miles west of Red Hill in the Grassey Creek area near Buffalo Creek. About 1766 Samuel Smith had named his plantation "Abram's Plains" in honor of the British victory at the Plains of Abraham in Quebec during the French and Indian War. (Jonathan K. T. Smith, "The Samuel Smith Family and the Abram's Plains Mansion House," unpublished manuscript, Historic Preservation Section, North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, pp. 4, 8.)

²These dates are based on the periods these architectural styles were popular in piedmont North Carolina, as well as conclusions based on the tax records and the purchase prices of the property in the deeds for each early owner.

³Granville County Tax Record for 1812, State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. The average farm size was approximately 500 acres. Other large land owners in the vicinity of Red Hill (the Abram's Plains District) included Reuben Searcy, William Bullock, James Graves and Howell Lewis who each owned at least 2,000 acres of land according to the 1812 schedule.

⁴John Gilbert, Crossties Through Carolina: A Story of North Carolina's Early Day Railroads (Raleigh: Helios Press, 1960), p. 8.

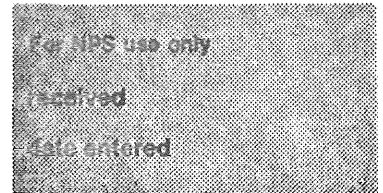
⁵Francis Jones is mentioned as a resident of Warren County in an 1819 deed from the Thomas Hunt to Howell L. Read; Granville County Deed Book Y, p. 265.

⁶National Register of Historic Places Nomination for Burnside Plantation. Burnside is approximately twenty miles south of Red Hill in Vance County. It was constructed c. 1800 and remodelled c. 1824 by Dr. Thomas Hunt in the Federal style.

⁷James R. Caldwell, Jr., "A History of Granville County, North Carolina: The Preliminary Phase, 1746-1800," Diss. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill 1950, p. 27.

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⁸Ibid.

⁹Granville County Deed Book I, p. 23; Deed Book M, pp. 145-146; Deed Book N, p. 105.

¹⁰North Carolina Tax Records for 1785, State Archives, Raleigh. There is a fifty-two acre discrepancy between the acreage mentioned in the deeds and the 1785 tax records. It is not known if Mitchell sold this small parcel or if the surveyor's or tax collector's calculations were in error. Subsequent deeds consistently mention that the property consisted of 1,022 acres.

¹¹Granville County Tax Records from 1782-1803, State Archives, Raleigh.

¹²Caldwell, Chapter V, p. 95.

¹³Telephone interview with Richard Boone, architectural historian with the Virginia Landmarks Commission, Richmond, Virginia, April 1, 1986

¹⁴Second Census, 1800 of the United States: Granville County, North Carolina; Population Schedule, State Archives, Raleigh.

¹⁵Granville County Deed Book R, p. 236.

¹⁶Granville County Tax Records for 1805, State Archives, Raleigh.

¹⁷Granville County Deed Book T, p. 64. Jones continued to live elsewhere in Granville County. The 1810 Census indicates there were nine free whites living in Jones' household and twenty-one slaves.

¹⁸Granville County Deed Book W, p. 87.

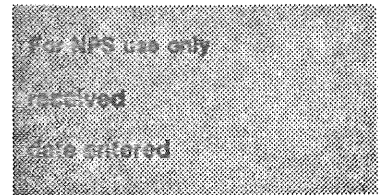
¹⁹Granville County Tax Records for 1817, State Archives, Raleigh.

²⁰Fourth Census, 1820, of the United States: Granville County, North Carolina Population Schedule, State Archives, Raleigh.

²¹Granville County Deed Book Y, p. 265. There is a twelve-acre discrepancy between Hunt's and Read's deeds. Either Hunt purchased nine additional acres or the surveyor's or tax collector's calculations are in error. No deed for this small land purchase can be located. Hunt deeded Read 1,165 acres in the 1819 sale.

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²²Estate papers for Thomas Hunt did not specify property sold to Read. Hunt died in 1829.

²³Granville County Tax Records for 1830, State Archives, Raleigh.

²⁴Granville County Tax Records, 1820-1840, State Archives, Raleigh.

²⁵Fourth Census, 1820, of the United States: Granville County, North Carolina Population Schedule, State Archives, Raleigh.

²⁶Granville County Deed Book 10, p. 408.

²⁷Granville County Will Books, Office of the Clerk of Court Granville County Courthouse, Oxford, Will Book 17, p. 595.

²⁸Richard V. Daniels first appears in the Tax Records for Granville County in 1848. Although John G. Daniels' will could not be located, Richard, his son is indicated as the executor of the estate in the inventory of this property, 1847; Granville County Will Book 17, p. 595.

²⁹Granville County Deed Book 19, p. 47.

³⁰Susan M. Daniels is listed in the Granville County Tax Records for Red Hill from 1858-1864, State Archives, Raleigh. According to the 1860 United States Census, Isabella was eleven years old. In the 1870 Census, Isabella was twenty-one years old and the head of the household, Red Hill. Population Schedules, Granville County, State Archives, Raleigh.

³¹Eighth Census, 1860 of the United States: Population Schedule, Granville County, State Archives, Raleigh.

³²Agricultural Census for 1860, Granville County, State Archives.

³³Granville County Deed Book 36, pl. 315.

³⁴Granville County Deed Book 41, p. 238 ; Deed Book 53, p. 77.

³⁵Granville County Deed Book 59, p. 250.

³⁶Granville County Deed Book 81, p. 340; Deed Book 145, p. 24.

³⁷Granville County Deed Book 160, p. 193 and 380; Deed Book 168, p. 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately five acres

Quadrangle name Clarksville South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

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| Zone | | | Easting | | | | | Northing | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A | | N/A | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson, Consultant; Cynthia A. Craig, Researcher

organization

date June 1, 1986

street & number Route 2, Box 1034

telephone (919) 732-5439

city or town Hillsborough

state North Carolina 27278

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William S. Pugh, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 10, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

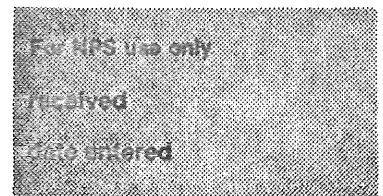
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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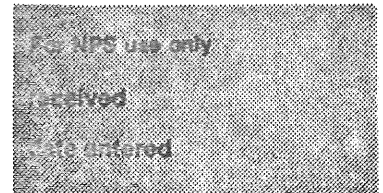
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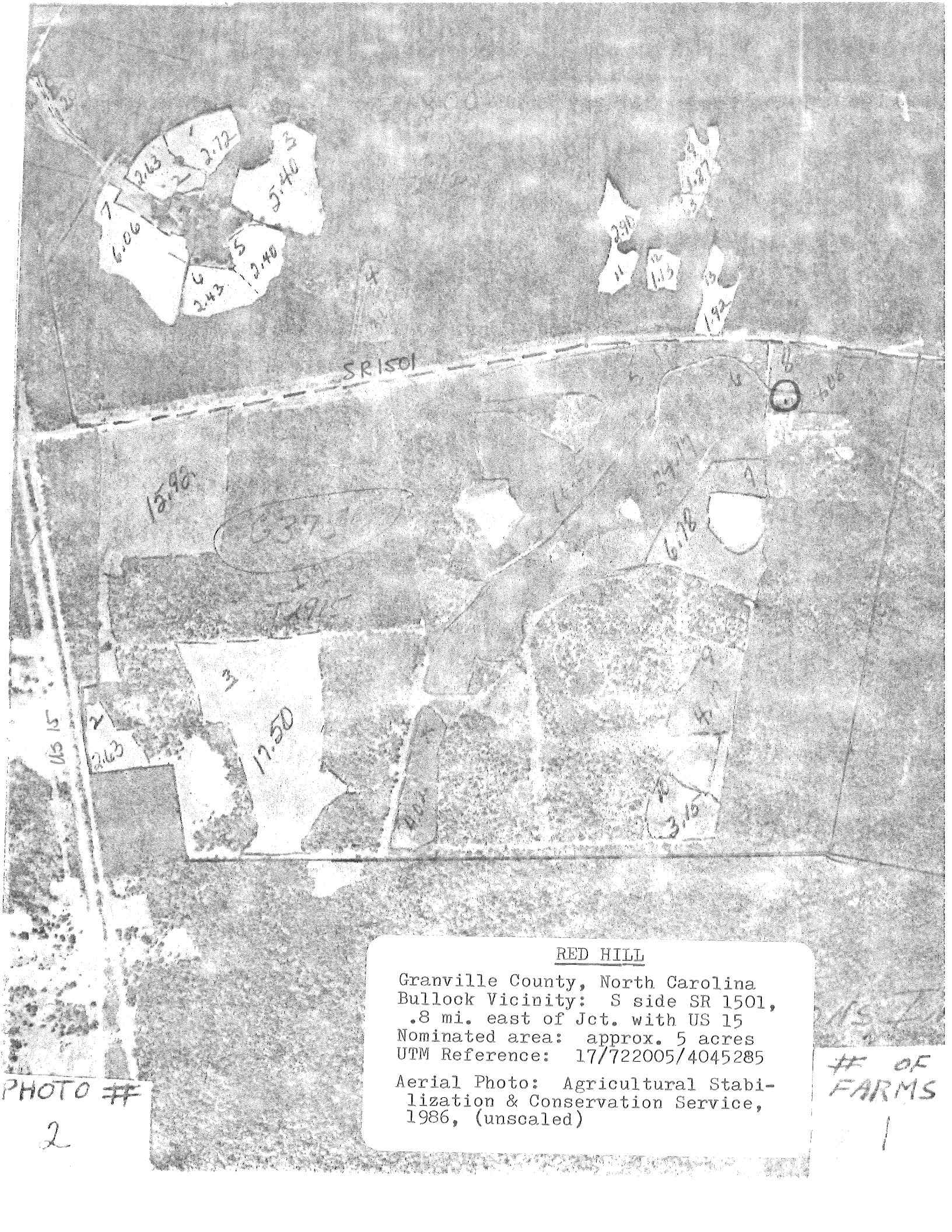
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Continuation sheet Geographical Data Item number 10 Page

Red Hill is located in the northeast corner of a 263 acre farm as described in Granville County Deed Book 256, pp. 146-147. The nominated area includes only the house known as "Red Hill" and approximately five acres immediately surrounding it. Specifically excluded are the modern tenant house located south of Red Hill and other nearby outbuildings. (No original outbuildings historically associated with Red Hill survive). Much of the cleared land on the farm is presently in use as livestock pasturage and is no longer planted with the traditional crops of tobacco and small grains.



RED HILL

Granville County, North Carolina
Bullock Vicinity: S side SR 1501,
.8 mi. east of Jct. with US 15
Nominated area: approx. 5 acres
UTM Reference: 17/722005/4045285

Aerial Photo: Agricultural Stabi-
lization & Conservation Service,
1986, (unscaled)

PHOTO #

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